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PATENT  
8030-1002

## IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Takaaki TOYOOKA et al.

Appl. No.:

NEW

Group:

Filed:

March 26, 2002

Examiner:

For:

STAINLESS STEEL TUBE FOR AUTOMOBILE  
STRUCTUREPRELIMINARY AMENDMENTAssistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

March 26, 2002

Sir:

The following preliminary amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

IN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE:

*A1* Please replace the Abstract of the Disclosure with the rewritten Abstract of the Disclosure attached on a separate sheet attached hereto.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

*A2* 3. (Amended) A stainless steel tube according to  
claim 1, wherein the diameter of ferrite grain is preferably not  
more than 8  $\mu$ m.